being pursued. Constant interaction with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), both indigenous and foreign, is also maintained to overcome the technical defects of the aircraft.

Manpower planning in ordnance factories

1278. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned manpower strength and existing manpower of ordnance factories factory-wise and category-wise break up thereof;

(b) the average age of employees in non-gazetted category;

(c) the age profile of industrial and non-industrial employees specially in the range of 40-50 and 50-55 years; and

(d) the manpower planning for next 10 years in the ordnance factories, keeping in view the age profile of the employees, new technology infusion and long term production planning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Armed Forces Tribunal Bench at Hyderabad

1279. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would establish Armed Forces Tribunal Bench at Hyderabad for the convenience of massive Armed Personnel and in view of the fact that Hyderabad is having the largest representation of the Armed Forces personnel with several Army Core Head Quarters; various Military units and Army Formations including Air Force Academy at Dundigal (Hyderabad); strategically important Air Force Harkeempet and Air Force begumpet; biggest Eastern Command Naval Head Quarters (Visakhapatnam) and Air Force Flying units at Bidar; and

(b) if not, the detailed reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007 (No. 55 of 2007) provides adequately for coverage of defence personnel and Ex-servicemen in the Southern States, as also from elsewhere in India. No decision has been taken as yet by the Government with regard to setting up of Regional Benches of the Tribunal.

Increase in temperature of Arctic Ocean

1280. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the temperature of Arctic Ocean has been increasing rapidly;

(b) if so, the details thereof received by Government;

(c) how much water level of the ocean has increased during the last 10 years, year-wise;

(d) how far Indian coast shall be adversely affected as a result of such increase of water-level; and

(e) the steps being taken/taken by Government for the protection/safety of India?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information available in published reports indicate that the sea surface temperatures (SST) and the upper ocean heat content in the Arctic Ocean have been steadily increasing. Few climate stations that have records extending back beyond 50 years, indicate that the Arctic region warmed up by about 1-2°C between 1910 and 1945. A number of stations showed further warming over the past two decades. The SST recorded in 2007, is reported to have been about 3.5°C warmer than the 100 year average.

(c) The average volume of Arctic Ice is 20,000 Km^3, compared to the Antarctic Ice volume (30,000,000 Km^3). Since the quantity of ice in Arctic is very small compared to Antarctic, Arctic sea ice melting does not increase the water level of the oceans significantly.

(d) Since melting of the ice cover on the Arctic Ocean does not affect sea level significantly, the coastal areas will not be adversely affected.

(e) Government has set up a network of about 50 tidal gauges all along Indian coast line for continuous monitoring of sea level. Besides, Coastal Zone vulnerability zonation maps are being generated for various sectors along the Indian Coast.

Custodial rapes

†1281. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise number of cases of custodial rapes registered during the last three years;

(b) the State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether the investigation of these incidents have been conducted; and

(d) if so, the findings of the investigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) and (b) The State/UT wise number of case of custodial rape registered during 2004 to 2006 are enclosed as Statement. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) The State/UT wise number of total custodial rape cases for investigation including pending cases from previous year, cases declared false on account of mistake of fact or law, cases charge-sheeted, cases in which final report submitted, cases pending investigation at the end of the year, persons arrested during the year and persons in whose cases charge-sheets were submitted during 2004 to 2006 are enclosed as Statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.